

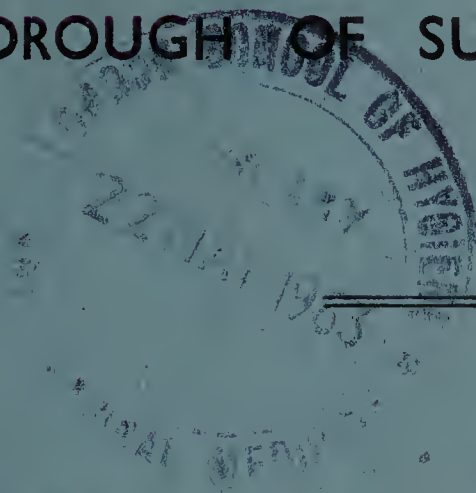
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THE ROYAL TOWN OF SUTTON COLDFIELD

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BOROUGH OF SUTTON COLDFIELD



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year

1956



THE ROYAL TOWN OF SUTTON COLDFIELD

BOROUGH OF SUTTON COLDFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR
1956

JAMES R. PRESTON, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.F.P.S.G.
Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department
Council House
Sutton Coldfield

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PREFACE

Public Health Department,
Council House,
Sutton Coldfield.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Royal Town of
Sutton Coldfield.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to submit to you my report on the health of the Borough for the year 1956.

During the year 1956 there was again a steady and rapid increase in the work of the Health Department. The Four Oaks, Hill and Walmley areas continue to grow rapidly thereby setting problems in sewage disposal, provision of clinics and nursing services. The rate of building of private houses appears to be approximately 1,200 a year and this, coupled with the building of Corporation houses, means that the population is growing very speedily indeed.

During the year the Council agreed to increase the establishment of the Public Health Department by one Public Health Inspector and also one Pupil Health Inspector. This was a very necessary step owing to the increased load caused by the speeding up in slum clearance and the increased activities of the Department in Health Education and the increased work generally.

There is no doubt that the hospital accommodation in Sutton Coldfield is totally inadequate and there is need for more facilities. In particular there is considerable demand for beds for the chronic sick, especially aged, and unless something is done in the near future in this direction the difficulties will become insurmountable because the home nursing services are quite incapable of taking on further load with the existing staff.

During the year considerable concern was felt in the town because of the delay in the completion of Good Hope Hospital and the Member of Parliament for the Borough was asked to visit the Hospital with members of the Council and representatives of the Lichfield, Sutton Coldfield and Tamworth Hospital Group. Arising out of this meeting some progress was made.

Once again during the year there was a number of complaints from the Jockey Road and Clarence Road areas about surcharging of the sewers. The preliminary work is proceeding with regard to Jockey Road sewer and it appears that something can be done to alleviate the difficulties in Clarence Road and elsewhere.

I note that during the year a weeding boat has been purchased to clear weeds and rushes in Windley Pool. There is no doubt that the pools in the Park are gradually being silted up, especially Windley and Bracebridge, and of course this in its turn leads to increase in fly and insect breeding.

Until the Pools are properly cleaned out and surface water diverted from Windley, this constant filling in of the pools will continue, and indeed some of the most attractive features of the Park may be in danger of being lost.

I am glad to see that the Park and Estates Committee have now got a suitable standard design for catering kiosks in the Park. During the year a new kiosk was erected at Banners Gate which very much improves the hygienic standards of catering in that area of the Park. A similar kiosk was erected at Keepers Pool.

The Health Committee has taken a greater interest in the clothing of refuse collectors and during the year a hundred sets of clothing were purchased. There is no doubt that the refuse collectors working as they do in all weathers tend to have a high rate of absenteeism and provision of proper clothing for outside work is undoubtedly one way of reducing this.

During the year the Borough Council again considered the provision of a Crematorium. The present arrangement is to use Perry Barr Crematorium for this area. This Crematorium is extremely busy and there is no doubt that there has been an increase in demand for cremation during the last few years, making the provision of a Crematorium an urgent matter. Plans have been prepared and it is hoped that in a few years time Sutton Coldfield and surrounding areas will have a suitable Crematorium available.

The Sutton Coldfield Old People's Welfare Committee continues its work for the old people of the Town and has very close liaison with the Health Department.

The Council appreciating the value of the work done by the "Meals on Wheels" Service, which is run by the W.V.S. in Sutton Coldfield from their own kitchens and subsidised by the Old People's Welfare Committee, decided to give to the "Meals on Wheels" Service an industrial type refrigerator which will help considerably in the running of the Service.

I am pleased to note that the policy of the Town Council with regard to old people's bungalow gardens is to include the levelling and seeding of the gardens in the contracts for the construction of footpaths, and to arrange for the regular cutting of the grass thereafter by Council workmen.

The Council felt that they would like to see accommodation for general practitioners on the Falcon Lodge Estate and approached the County Council to see if any arrangements could be made to allow general practitioners the use of the new local authority clinic there. The County Council stated they had no powers to provide separate premises for general practitioners but that the general practitioners could provide their own accommodation for group practices. Following the decision of the local doctors not to proceed with any joint scheme the Borough Council decided that they would allocate a housing site on the Falcon Lodge Estate to a general practitioner so that a doctor's house and surgery could be built there.

Following on the report of an attendance at the National Smoke Abatement Conference in which reference was made to exhaust fumes from diesel and petrol powered vehicles, it was decided that the registration numbers of motor vehicles emitting excessive exhaust smoke should be noted and an approach made to the owners asking them to rectify the fault in the vehicle thereby stopping the excessive emissions of black smoke and fumes obnoxious to pedestrians and other road users.


During this year permission was given for extra spraying of the Park to reduce the number of biting and annoying insects. This was done as a preliminary to the large scale spraying which was to be done in preparation for the Scout Jubilee Jamboree to be held in 1957.

During the year the office accommodation of the Public Health Department was considered together with the general office accommodation in the Council House. There was no doubt that the office accommodation of the Public Health Department was quite inadequate and the staff was working under poor conditions, and it was therefore agreed that the Health Department, including the Area Health Department of the County Council, should move to "The Bracken" where more suitable accommodation was available.

I would like to thank Mr. Impett the Senior Health Inspector for the excellent way in which he has carried out his duties during the year. I also want to thank all the members of the Public Health Department for the conscientious and helpful way they have worked.

My thanks are due to the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor J. J. Potter, who has given me every encouragement and help in my work, and also the members of the Health Committee for their support.

JAMES R. PRESTON,
Medical Officer of Health.



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STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1956

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	-	-	JAMES R. PRESTON, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.F.P.S.G.
<i>Senior Public Health Inspector</i>	-	-	C. E. IMPETT, M.R.San.I.
<i>Senior Assistant Public Health Inspector</i>	-	-	H. T. MITCHELL, M.R.San.I., A.M.I.San.E.
<i>Additional Public Health Inspectors</i>	-	-	H. MEREDITH, A.R.San.I. J. B. JONES, A.R.San.I.
<i>Chief Clerk</i>	-	-	G. W. T. NICHOLLS.
<i>Clerks</i>	-	-	R. M. HALL. Mrs. D. M. WARRILOW. Miss A. E. ARMISHAW (commenced 1/2/1956) Miss M. V. HILDICK (commenced 6/2/1956)
<i>Public Analyst</i>	-	-	F. G. D. CHALMERS, M.A., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	...	13,978 acres
Population—Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	29,928
Census, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	47,590
As estimated by Registrar-General mid-	...	...	...	...	...
year, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	52,510
Total number of inhabited houses—						
31st December, 1947	...	...	...	...	...	13,795
31st December, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	14,046
31st December, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	14,257
31st December, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	14,703
31st December, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	14,929
31st December, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	15,085
31st December, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	15,669
31st December, 1954	...	...	...	...	...	16,387
31st December, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	17,280
31st December, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	17,802
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	£926,128
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1956-57, £3,750 (approx.)						

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The Municipal Borough and Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield lies in the North-west corner of the County of Warwick. It has an area of 13,978 acres. From the Southern Boundary at Chester Road where it marches with Birmingham to the Watford Gap Northern Boundary is a distance of $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles. The main road

between these two points divides the Borough into approximately two equal parts : the Eastern half is more agricultural and less densely populated, and in the Western half lies the park, the most important physical feature of the district with its 2,400 acres of woods and moorland set in undulating country with gorse, heather, streams and pools. The Southern areas and vicinity of the main road are the most densely populated, although with the growth of Falcon Lodge, Walmley and the development in the Hill area, the population is becoming more evenly distributed.

The district is residential and agricultural, and forms a pleasant residential area for persons working in the neighbouring city of Birmingham.

The subsoil varies somewhat but is for the most part sandy and porous with a fairly consistent level of subsoil water, conditions which make for healthy building sites.

There are no occupations in the Borough which would adversely affect the public health, and the number of factories is relatively small.

DISTRICTS OF SUTTON COLDFIELD

The town of Sutton Coldfield with its population of 52,510 is the third largest borough in Warwickshire according to the Registrar-General's quarterly return showing population estimates. The borough is still rapidly growing and expanding in population, housing and amenities.

The town is divided into seven wards as shown below in the estimate of population of the wards at mid-year 1956.

**ESTIMATION OF POPULATION OF WARDS
AT MID-YEAR 1956**

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
TRINITY	1,656	4,970
HILL	3,269	9,810
BOLDMERE (East) ...	1,761	5,285
BOLDMERE (West) ...	3,602	10,810
WYLDE GREEN ...	1,832	5,498
MANEY	1,694	5,084
WALMLEY	3,683	11,053
Totals ...	17,497	52,510

METEOROLOGY

A general survey of the meteorological records for 1956 shows that as compared with the previous year, there was less sunshine and a lighter rainfall.

Sunshine

The total hours of sunshine during 1956 amounted to 1,237.40 as against 1,589.25 hours in 1955. May was the brightest month with 229.30 hours and the dullest month of the year was December with 12.00 hours.

Rainfall

The total rainfall during the year was 23.215 inches as compared with 24.60 inches during 1955. Rainfall was heaviest in August with 5.03 inches and November was the driest month with 0.47 inches.

The heaviest rainfall experienced in one day occurred on the 27th December when 0.92 inches was recorded. During the year rain fell on 146 days as compared with 140 days in 1955.

Temperature

The highest temperature during the year occurred on 26th of July, when 79° in the shade was recorded. This was 5° less than the highest temperature recorded in 1955. The lowest temperature of the year was 8° lower than 1955 and occurred on 26th December when 2° was recorded.

The mean temperature of the year was 47° this being 1° lower than 1955.

The following is a table of meterological observations taken at the Park Lodge and Council House during the year ended 31st December, 1956, by the Park Forester.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT THE PARK LODGE AND COUNCIL HOUSE
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1956, BY THE PARK FORESTER

Lat. : 52 deg. 33 min. 22 sec. N. Long. : 1 deg. 49 min. 42 sec. W.
Height of Rain Gauge above Sea Level, 370.5 feet.

MONTH	RAINFALL			BAROMETER			THERMOMETERS							SUNSHINE		MONTH		
	Total depth in inches	Number of days on which rain fell	Greatest fall in 24 hours	Highest corrected readings		Lowest corrected readings		In Shade			Highest readings in Sun		Lowest readings on grass		Monthly totals			
				Ins.	Date	Ins.	Date	Highest readings		Lowest readings		Mean Temp. in shade	Dgrs.	Date				
								Dgrs.	Date	Dgrs.	Date							
JANUARY	3.24	16	.60	30.420	4th	28.520	10th	50.0	1-2	21.0	25-26	36.5	75.0	25th	13.0	25th	47 40	JANUARY
FEBRUARY	1.00	5	.42	30.620	4th	29.620	13/14	53.0	29th	9.0	4th	30.0	93.0	16th	2.0	2nd	71 50	FEBRUARY
MARCH	1.11	10	.50	30.420	27/28	29.270	20th	60.0	24-27	21.0	11th	42.5	111.0	24th	14.0	11th	116 30	MARCH
APRIL	1.22	11	.40	30.320	18th	29.520	13/14	61.0	22nd	28.0	19th	43.0	110.0	10-11	22.0	16-23	135 20	APRIL
MAY	.665	7	.30	30.270	5/6	29.920	1/2	73.0	24th	29.0	19th	52.5	129.0	24th	21.0	19th	229 30	MAY
JUNE	1.81	12	.66	30.420	23/24	29.440	28/29	74.0	24th	36.0	13th	55.5	129.0	2nd	26.0	15th	133 10	JUNE
JULY	2.01	14	.61	30.220	24th	29.620	28/29/30	79.0	26th	44.0	10-11	61.0	134.0	5th	32.0	11th	149 30	JULY
AUGUST	5.03	23	.47	30.220	2nd	29.370	24/25/26	69.0	10-11	41.0	21st	56.5	129.0	8th	33.0	21st	127 20	AUGUST
SEPTEMBER	2.26	14	.40	30.220	29/30	29.520	14/15	76.0	14th	41.0	27th	56.5	122.0	9th	30.0	27th	79 50	SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER	1.43	13	.41	30.420	31st	29.820	5/19	64.0	1st	27.0	26th	47.5	113.0	4th	18.0	26th	86 20	OCTOBER
NOVEMBER	.47	9	.17	30.470	1/2	29.620	9/10	54.0	9th	19.0	22nd	41.5	80.0	10th	13.0	22nd	48 40	NOVEMBER
DECEMBER	2.97	12	.92	30.420	20/21	29.720	13/15	55.0	3rd	2.0	26th	40.5	55.0	3rd	18.0	27th	12 00	DECEMBER
Totals ...	23.215	146						Mean for the year ...				47.0	Total			1,237 40	...	

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956

						Males	Females	Total
Live Births								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	471	404	875
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	12	15	27
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	483	419	902
Still Births								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	6	11	17
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	7	12	19
Deaths								
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	269	266	535
Maternal Mortality								
Deaths from puerperal causes :								
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths from Special Causes								
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	69	53	122
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Enteritis (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Infant Mortality								
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	4	10	14
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	4	10	14
Neo-Natal Deaths								
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	11
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	11

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956

(continued)

Birth-Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, mid-1956	...	17.2
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 population	... ..	0.36
Death-Rate per 1,000 population	... ..	10.2
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		
Puerperal sepsis	... ..	Nil
Other causes	... ..	Nil
Abortion with sepsis	... ..	Nil
Abortion without sepsis	... ..	Nil
Death-Rate of Infants under 1 year of age		
All infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	15.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..	16
Death-Rate per 1,000 estimated population		
Tuberculosis—pulmonary	... ..	0.04
„ non-pulmonary	... ..	0.04
Whooping Cough	... ..	Nil
Cancer	... ..	2.32
Diphtheria	... ..	Nil
Measles	... ..	Nil
Influenza	... ..	0.02
Pneumonia	... ..	0.13
Enteritis (under 2 years) per 1,000 live births	... ..	2.22

CAUSES OF DEATH ASSIGNABLE TO THE BOROUGH

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—	2
2	Tuberculosis, other	1	1	2
3	Syphilitic disease	—	1	1
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	9	8	17
11	„ „ lung, bronchus	17	8	25
12	„ „ breast	—	10	10
13	„ „ uterus	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	43	27	70
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	3	2	5
16	Diabetes	—	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	28	46	74
18	Coronary disease, angina	57	30	87
19	Hypertension with heart disease ...	8	3	11
20	Other heart disease	30	41	71
21	Other circulatory disease	14	11	25
22	Influenza	1	—	1
23	Pneumonia	1	6	7
24	Bronchitis	9	7	16
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	4	4	8
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	8	3	11
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	6	6
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	4
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	6	—	6
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	2	3	5
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	34	50
33	Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
34	All other accidents	5	7	12
35	Suicide	2	3	5
36	Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
	ALL CAUSES	269	266	535

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH

Diseases	MALES							FEMALES												
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 to 75	75 and over	All ages	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 to 75	75 and over	All ages
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" other	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilitic disease
Other infective and parasitic diseases
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	5	1	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" lung and bronchus	17	7	1	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" breast
" uterus
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	3	16	11	13	43	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	...	...	...	3	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diabetes
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	7	15	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Coronary disease, angina	26	16	15	57	...	...	...	...	...	2	10	11	31	46
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	4	3	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	13	30
Other heart disease	1	3	8	18	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	3
Other circulatory disease	1	2	1	10	14	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	7	32	41
Influenza	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5	11
Pneumonia	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	3	3	3	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	5	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2	4	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital malformations	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other defined and ill defined diseases	3	...	...	...	...	...	16	4	8	16	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	21	34
Motor vehicle accidents	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	5	1
All other accidents	1	...	4	5	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	7
Suicide	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	3
Homicide and operations of war
Totals	4	...	1	...	1	7	83	70	103	269	10	1	...	...	1	5	47	56	146	266

MORTALITY BY AGE AND SEX

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Death-Rate per 1,000 Population (Estimated R.-G.)</i>
Under 1 year 	4	10	14	.266
1 and under 2 	—	1	1	.019
2 and under 5 	1	—	1	.019
5 and under 15 	—	—	—	.000
15 and under 25 	1	1	2	.038
25 and under 45 	7	5	12	.228
45 and under 65 	83	47	130	2.475
65 and under 75 	70	56	126	2.399
75 and over 	103	146	249	4.741
Total—All Ages ...	269	266	535	10.185

VITAL STATISTICS—SUTTON COLDFIELD—1861 to 1956

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Infant Mortality†</i>	<i>Birth- Rate†</i>	<i>Death- Rate†</i>
1861 	*4,662			
1871 	*5,938			
1881 	*7,737			
1891 	*8,686			
1892 	8,950	131	21.22	13.40
1893 	9,100	131	24.28	15.71
1894 	10,000	90	20.00	11.50
1895 	10,500	114	19.90	11.04
1896 	10,800	123	19.53	13.50
1897 	11,641	103	19.15	11.59
1898 	12,619	91	17.35	11.64
1899 	13,800	96	22.46	12.18
1900 	14,517	93	22.18	11.57
1901 	*14,264	97	23.61	11.87
1902 	15,635	103	24.02	11.79
1903 	16,619	101	21.90	11.97
1904 	17,521	136	20.54	10.44

*Census.

†Per 1,000 of population.

‡Per 1,000 births.

VITAL STATISTICS—SUTTON COLDFIELD—1861 to 1956 — continued

Year				Population	Infant Mortality†	Birth- Rate†	Death- Rate†
1905	...	...	...	18,491	73	19.90	9.19
1906	...	...	...	19,347	90	20.62	9.71
1907	...	...	...	20,391	65	19.71	8.97
1908	...	...	...	20,952	95	17.74	9.50
1909	...	...	...	21,325	101	17.06	9.61
1910	...	...	...	21,780	104	18.41	9.91
1911	...	...	...	*20,132	105	19.37	10.53
1912	...	...	...	20,600	52	16.87	8.54
1913	...	...	...	20,919	71	19.41	10.97
1914	...	...	...	21,437	53	18.24	9.98
1915	...	...	...	22,513	76	13.85	10.61
1916	...	...	...	22,513	58	16.24	10.76
1917	...	...	...	21,475	61	15.22	12.87
1918	...	...	...	20,685	68	15.74	12.95
1919	...	...	...	20,853	47	15.74	11.56
1920	...	...	...	21,684	31.2	20.6	9.3
1921	...	...	...	*23,028	58.9	17.07	10.02
1922	...	...	...	23,100	56.55	16.83	10.83
1923	...	...	...	23,210	79.54	15.16	9.43
1924	...	...	...	23,570	55.21	13.83	9.75
1925	...	...	...	23,800	37.46	14.57	9.49
1926	...	...	...	24,850	51.61	12.47	10.78
1927	...	...	...	25,540	67.56	14.48	11.19
1928	...	...	...	26,720	30.58	12.23	10.36
1929	...	...	...	27,450	43.47	10.89	13.29
1930	...	...	...	27,450	53.25	12.31	10.20
1931	...	...	...	*29,928	48.0	12.66	11.01
1932	...	...	...	30,310	38.46	12.01	10.06
1933	...	...	...	31,230	28.75	10.02	9.86
1934	...	...	...	32,070	28.25	11.04	10.25
1935	...	...	...	33,110	40.72	13.34	9.69
1936	...	...	...	33,830	34.01	13.04	10.91
1937	...	...	...	35,050	46.15	12.98	11.50
1938	...	...	...	36,350	47.62	15.02	9.46
1939	...	...	...	38,260	28.78	14.45	9.71
1940	...	...	...	40,630	34.25	14.30	11.96
1941	...	...	...	42,060	48.21	13.24	11.17
1942	...	...	...	42,300	40.79	15.65	10.50
1943	...	...	...	41,610	37.3	16.13	10.98
1944	...	...	...	42,440	28.81	19.63	11.26
1945	...	...	...	42,420	35.14	16.10	9.71
1946	...	...	...	44,460	31.75	17.00	11.25
1947	...	...	...	45,280	26.00	18.93	11.08
1948	...	...	...	46,190	25.6	16.09	9.6
1949	...	...	...	46,580	21.4	14.04	11.1
1950	...	...	...	47,440	13.8	13.8	10.9
1951	...	...	...	*47,590	15.4	13.6	11.9
1952	...	...	...	48,180	21.91	13.3	10.5
1953	...	...	...	48,670	13.1	15.72	9.57
1954	...	...	...	49,780	15.5	14.2	9.6
1955	...	...	...	50,630	19.7	16	10.4
1956	...	...	...	52,510	15.5	17.2	10.2

*Census.

†Per 1,000 of population.

‡Per 1,000 births.

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

Deaths

From the records available from 1892, or the last 65 years, the death-rate has fluctuated between a maximum of 15.71 per 1,000 population in 1893 and a minimum of 8.54 in 1912. Applying the Registrar-General's comparability factor of 1.05 it is found that the standardised death-rate for Sutton Coldfield in 1956 is 10.697. (The comparability factor for each district is supplied by the Registrar-General and the aim is to even out the differences in age and sex distribution of the population of the various districts. The use of this factor allows us to obtain standardised death-rates which are more fairly comparable and accurate than the crude death-rates.)

Birth-Rate

The birth rate for 1956 was 17.2 per 1,000 population and is the highest figure registered during the last ten years. This increase is undoubtedly due to the influx of young married couples to the Town following on the building of a large number of private enterprise houses, particularly in the Hill and Four Oaks and Walmley areas.

The highest figure available was that of 1893, namely 24.28 and the lowest in 1933—that of 10.02. The comparability factor was 1.01 and the standardised birth-rate was therefore 17.348 for 1956.

In 1956 the live births exceeded the number of deaths by 367.

Infant Mortality

The Infant Mortality Rate in 1956 was 15.5 per 1,000 live births.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Laboratories

The Medical Research Council directs the Public Health Laboratory Service. One of the constituent laboratories is the Birmingham Public Health Laboratory under the direction of Dr. Sandiford. This laboratory serves Birmingham and parts of the surrounding areas.

The laboratory undertakes the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases or suspected carriers of infectious disease. It investigates bacterial contamination of food in cases of suspected

food poisoning. It also tests water, shell-fish, milk, ice cream and foodstuffs for bacterial content.

Dr. Sandiford comments as follows :—

“During 1956 a new virus section has been organised in the laboratory. This enables us to offer cultural examination for influenza A, B or C, adeno viruses ('APC'), Coxsackie virus, poliovirus, and certain others. The viruses are grown either in developing chick embryos or in monolayer tissue cultures. The latter are single cell layers of tissue growing in a film on the inside of test tubes. By introducing virus or material suspected to contain it, characteristic cytopathogenic effects can be observed in the cells.

“Serological investigation of suspected virus infections has been extended and now includes influenza A, B and C, poliomyelitis and Coxsackie infections, as well as adeno-viruses ('APC') and Coxsackie virus.

“May we stress that the taking of appropriate specimens, at the right times, is essential in virus investigations. For cultural work specimens taken within a few days of infection are most valuable. For serological investigations paired sera taken respectively early and late in the course of infection are most desirable. A significant rise in titre will afford a diagnostic result, whereas a single specimen taken after the disease has been going for a week or two often gives a result of dubious value.”

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Dr. Sandiford and his staff for the excellent co-operation and help which is given by them to the Public Health Department. Often specimens and samples are sent in at short notice and at awkward times and these are received and dealt with without complaint.

Ambulance Services

The ambulance service in the Borough is under the control of Warwickshire County Council.

The Ambulance Centre is at the Ambulance Depot in Boldmere Road. At the end of 1956 there were 17 driver/attendants, 1 attendant and 1 superintendent. The miles covered during the year were 91,193, an increase of 6,010 as compared with last year's mileage. The number of patients moved was 15,154, an increase of 1,933.

Five vehicles (three ambulances and two sitting case cars) are fitted with radio which used correctly is a great benefit in vehicle economy.

District Nursing and Midwifery Services

District Nursing and Midwifery Services are under the control of Warwickshire County Council working through the Area Health Office, Sutton Coldfield.

In 1956 there were six district nurse/midwives, three district nurses, and a number of part-time nursing staff. Demand for home nursing is on the increase again due to the growth of the population and owing to the difficulty of getting old people who require nursing attention into hospital, particularly in the case of the chronic sick.

There has again been an increase in domiciliary midwifery during the year.

The number of general nursing visits carried out was 22,409 and there were 8,708 midwifery visits.

Health Visiting

In this area nine Health Visitors were employed during the year. In connection with the home visiting of young children endeavours were made to extend the visiting to other members of the family where this was possible.

Health Visitors have been taking a greater interest in the last few years in Health Education and many lecture/demonstrations are being given to mothers at clinics and at meetings arranged with local organisations.

A 16 m.m. sound film projector is available and also equipment for the showing of film strips and colour transparencies.

Health Visitors paid 20,655 visits during the year.

Clinics and Centres

SCHOOL CLINIC

9 HOLLAND STREET, SUTTON COLDFIELD

Monday	-	-	A.M.	AURAL CLINIC (First and third Mondays in month). TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC (Second and fourth Mondays in month).
			P.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
Tuesday	-	-	A.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
			P.M.	CONSULTATION CLINIC (alternate weeks).
Wednesday	-	-	A.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
			P.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
Thursday	-	-	A.M.	EYE CLINIC.
Friday	-	-	A.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
			P.M.	EYE CLINIC (extra session once a month).
Saturday	-	-	A.M.	CONSULTATION CLINIC (as required).

**WELFARE CENTRE
49 HOLLAND STREET, SUTTON COLDFIELD**

Monday	-	-	A.M.	SUN-RAY CLINIC (Winter months only).
			P.M.	CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.
Tuesday	-	-	A.M.	ANTE- AND POST-NATAL CLINIC (alternate weeks).
			P.M.	EXERCISE CLINIC (Children).
Wednesday	-	-	A.M.	SPEECH THERAPY CLINIC (Children).
			P.M.	SPEECH THERAPY CLINIC (Children).
Thursday	-	-	A.M.	SUN-RAY CLINIC (Winter months only).
			P.M.	EXERCISE CLINIC (Children).
Friday	-	-	P.M.	PREPARATION FOR MOTHERHOOD CLINIC (alternate weeks).
Friday Evening	-	-		FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC.

**WELFARE CENTRE
MERE GREEN ROAD, SUTTON COLDFIELD**

Monday	-	-	P.M.	PREPARATION FOR MOTHERHOOD CLINIC (alternate weeks).
Tuesday	-	-	P.M.	CHILD WELFARE, ANTE- AND POST-NATAL CLINIC (Combined).

**WELFARE CENTRE
BOLDMERE ROAD, BOLDMERE, SUTTON COLDFIELD**

Monday	-	-	A.M.	CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC (alternate weeks).
			A.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
			P.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
Tuesday	-	-	A.M.	SPEECH THERAPY CLINIC.
			A.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
			P.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
Wednesday	-	-	A.M.	ANTE- AND POST-NATAL CLINIC (alternate weeks).
			A.M.	TODDLER CLINIC (alternate weeks).
			P.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
			P.M.	CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.
Thursday	-	-	A.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
			P.M.	PREPARATION FOR MOTHERHOOD CLINIC (alternate weeks).

**WELFARE CENTRE
THE GREEN, MINWORTH**

Wednesday	-	P.M.	CHILD WELFARE, ANTE- AND POST-NATAL CLINIC (Combined) (alternate weeks).
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**WELFARE CENTRE
WALMLEY ROAD, WALMLEY**

Tuesday	-	P.M.	CHILD WELFARE (alternate weeks).
Wednesday	-	P.M.	PREPARATION FOR MOTHERHOOD CLINIC (alternate weeks).
Thursday	-	P.M.	CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

**WELFARE CENTRE
BANNERS GATE ROAD, BANNERS GATE**

Tuesday	-	P.M.	PREPARATION FOR MOTHERHOOD CLINIC (alternate weeks).
Friday	-	A.M.	ANTE- AND POST-NATAL, AND TODDLER CLINIC (alternate weeks).
		P.M.	CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

These services were transferred to the Warwickshire County Council in 1948, the Medical Officer of Health remaining in administrative charge as Area Medical Officer. In this work of Maternity and Child Welfare he is assisted by one full-time and one part-time Medical Officer, and an Area Nursing Officer, who supervises the nursing services in the area.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics

Five ante-natal and post-natal clinic sessions are held in Sutton Coldfield clinics. One is held weekly, and four fortnightly.

In 1956 approximately 75% of confinements took place in institutions. Many of the institutions run their own clinics and this naturally causes a fall in numbers in local authority clinic attendances.

Maternal Mortality

I am very pleased to report that there were no maternal deaths in the Borough, although there were 902 live births in the Borough in 1956. This is an increase of 100 births over the 1955 figure.

Infant Mortality

There were 14 deaths of infants under a year giving an infant mortality rate of 15.5 which is considerably lower than the figure of 19.7 for 1955.

The infant mortality rate of 15.5 is amongst the lowest recorded.

Hospital Accommodation for Maternity Cases

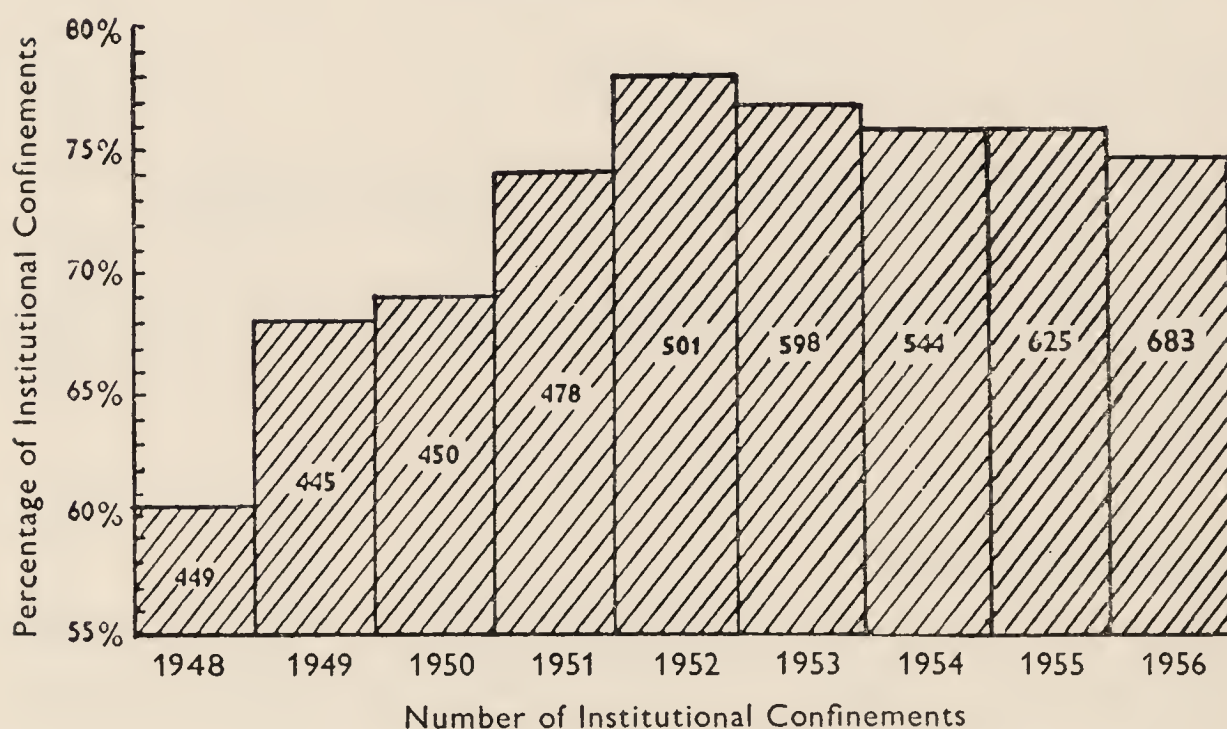
Sutton Coldfield Maternity Unit provided accommodation for 293 institutional confinements. Domiciliary confinements amounted to 223 and Birmingham Hospitals and private nursing homes provided for the remainder.

In view of the large increase in the number of births which is occurring in this area there is not the slightest doubt that there is a need for more institutional maternity accommodation, as it is likely that this Town will continue to increase rapidly in size and the problem will become more urgent. I hope that the extra accommodation will be forthcoming.

Maternity Accommodation

Number and Percentage of Institutional Confinements for the Past Nine Years

GRAPH No. 1



Cases which for social reasons cannot remain at home are visited by the Local Health Authority midwives and referred where appropriate to the Regional Hospital Board for admission to a maternity ward.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The Local Health Authority is responsible for carrying out this and effort is made to ensure that every child under one has been immunised. A boosting dose is offered to all children in their first year at school and also when they attain the age of ten years.

Home Help Service

This Service is under the control of the local Health Authority, Warwickshire County Council, the day-to-day administration being carried out in the Sutton Coldfield Area Health Department.

This Service is one of the most important services and has grown steadily owing to the continued increase in the number of calls made on it, particularly by mothers who are being confined at homes.

There is also a demand for this service by the old people who are no longer able to cope and who require a few days Home Help per week to enable them to keep their house in reasonable order. This plays a very important part in keeping a number of old people out of hospital who would otherwise have to be admitted, and although it is costly, it is the cheaper way of dealing with the problem of the chronic sick old person. Apart from cost, it seems to me that it is far better to keep old people in their own home as long as possible and the Home Help Service plays a large part in this.

The number of cases given help during the year was 330 and the number of hours increased by 7,899 hours to a total of 37,088 hours.

Day Nurseries

These are the responsibility of the Warwickshire County Council the Local Health Authority in this area, and it is not the policy of the County Council to provide a day nursery in Sutton Coldfield.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA WATER SUPPLY

There are three systems of water supply in the Borough :

- (a) The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. (This serves the majority of the populated area).
- (b) The Birmingham City Water Undertaking. (This serves certain areas adjacent to the Birmingham City Boundary.)
- (c) Private Supplies. (Spring or well supplies in the outlying and rural areas.)

Some notes on these three systems are given overleaf.

(a) and (b) **Public Water Supplies**

(a) The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company supply approximately 90% of the population of the Borough of Sutton Coldfield.

The quantity of water has been amply maintained during the year and the quality of the water was also satisfactory.

The supply to Sutton Coldfield is afforded from a system which includes five underground sources and a surface source, the River Blithe (Staffordshire), which was made available to Sutton Coldfield district early in 1952. The water at four of the underground sources is sterilized by chlorine and the River Blithe water is treated by rapid gravity filtration in addition to chlorination. The chlorination practised at the pumping stations is a precautionary measure.

All the sources of supply are examined regularly both bacteriologically and chemically and samples of the water prior to chlorination are also examined bacteriologically where possible.

During 1956, 256 samples of the water pumped to supply from the five underground sources were all free from coliform bacteria as were 153 samples of the water prior to chlorination. Out of 312 samples of the chlorinated Blithe water 309 were free from all types of coliform bacteria. 251 samples of this water before treatment gave an approximate average coliform bacteria content of 10 per 100 ml.

Regular monthly tap samples were examined from three premises within the borough. 37 samples from these points were all free from coliform bacteria. The chemical composition was fairly constant with an average hardness of 221 p.p.m.

The water is not liable to plumbo solvency.

In cases of possible contamination following burst or damaged pipes, emptying of reservoirs, etc. emergency chlorination of the affected fitting or structure is carried out, and special apparatus and staff are available for the purpose. New mains are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

Within the area of supply in the Borough 16,215 houses are supplied direct and 12 by means of outside taps.

Details of mains laid in the Borough during 1956 are as follows :

Location.	Length in yards.						
	1½"	2"	3"	4"	6"	9"	12"
St. Chads Road			257			
Rectory Road Site			505			
Springfield Road Site			370			
Coles Lane				577		
Boldmere Road			85			
Hollyfield Road			652			
Rectory Road			78			
Parkside Farm			382	644		
Fox Hill Road			9	866		
Coppice Farm Site			789			688
Grange Lane Estate			409			
Little Sutton Road			394			
The Fordrough			98			
Wall Drive			102			
Grange Lane Estate			490			
Hill Village			327			
Bonner Drive ...	37	13		9			
Coleshill Road Site			150			
Pilkington Site		274		7	65	
Park View Road			435			
Coppice Farm Site			754			
Butlers Lane Site			507			
	37	13	274	6,802	2,094	65	688

A copy of a sample of water submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service is given below :

Bacteriological

Total Count : Number of colonies developing from 1 ml. of sample in agar after two days' incubation at 37°C. ... 2

Coliform count : Type and number per 100 ml. of sample ... Nil

(b) The Birmingham City Water Undertaking.

In the majority, the supply is taken from collecting areas in Wales, and the water is treated by slow or rapid sand filtration followed by chlorination. After chlorination the treated water remains underground until it reaches the consumer. The hardness of the water varies according to the districts supplied and the origin of the supply.

During 1956 the Birmingham Water Undertaking laid the following main extensions :

New Oscott area :

Coppice View Road, 20 yards of 4" main.

Queslett Road East, 64 yards of 4" main.

The Greenway, 324 yards of 4" main.

Minworth Area :

Bonner Drive, 280 yards of 4" main.

A copy of the report of a sample of this water submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service is given below :

Bacteriological

Total Count : Number of colonies developing from 1 ml.
of sample in agar after two days' incubation
at 37°C. 5

Coliform Count : Type and number per 100 ml. of sample ... Nil

I am indebted to Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief of South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and Mr. C. A. Risbridger, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Chief Engineer of the City of Birmingham Water Department for the information supplied with regard to their respective water undertakings and for their comments on the analysis of the water supply.

(c) Private Water Supplies

In the rural parts of the Borough there are 45 houses on private supplies. This is a reduction of five since last year.

During the year 93 samples were taken from these supplies : 36 were unsatisfactory, 4 suspicious, 1 satisfactory and 52 excellent.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The main drainage of the town was undertaken in 1887 and runs by way of the valley of Plants Brook to the Tame and Rea District Drainage Board in an egg-shaped main sewer which is 4ft. 6in. × 3ft. at its outfall at Minworth.

Boldmere was drained in 1900 and here in parts of Jockey Road a depth of 60 feet was attained.

The main drainage of the Streetly area was completed in the early part of this century, and a sewage lift operates in Streetly Lane owing to the low level of the sewer.

The sewage from the area east of Walmley Road drains to the new sewage disposal works at Langley Farm.

In 1950 sewers were completed in Weeford Road, Queslett Road, Stonehouse Road and in the Park, and a surface water sewer was laid in Bakers Lane.

In 1951 main sewers were laid in Clarence Road, Hillside Road, as part of the Lichfield Road drainage scheme. Sewers were laid in Birmingham Road to prevent localised flooding.

In 1953 surface sewers and foul sewers were laid for stage six of Falcon Lodge Development, and in Minworth, and in the

Queslett Road area, further sewers were laid in the Somerville estate and the Springfield estate areas. Numerous other smaller extensions were made in 1953.

In 1954 the main extensions to the surface sewers and foul sewers were in the Reddicap Heath, the Queslett Road and in the Boldmere West area.

In 1955 the main extensions to surface water and foul sewers were in the Whitehouse Common area, Roughley and Butlers Lane area.

In 1956 the sewers laid were as follows :

	Surface Water Sewers			Foul Sewers	
	Yards			Yards	
	6"	9"	12"	6"	9"
Sara Close	—	160	—	—	160
Springfield Crescent	—	220	—	—	220
Hollyhurst Road	—	415	—	165	380
Halton Road	—	360	—	—	360
Springfield Road } ...	243	742	62	—	—
Reddicap Heath Road }					
	243	1,897	62	165	1,120

120 Corporation and 92 private enterprise houses were connected to public sewers.

HOUSES WITH SUB-STANDARD SANITATION

(a) Not connected to main drainage :

At the 31st December 1956, 308 houses were not connected to main drainage, 181 having privy closets, and six sharing privy accommodation. Four of these houses have been included in a confirmed Clearance Order and will be demolished as soon as vacated. 109 houses had a water closet connected to a cesspool, and 12 houses were served by water closet connected to a treatment unit. 303 of the houses which were not connected to main drainage are situated in Walmley and Hill wards. The Corporation provides a cesspool emptying service on payment by the occupier. Pail closets, which are not emptied by the Corporation, are mostly situated in rural areas. The contents are emptied by the occupiers and buried. Cesspool and pail closets are primitive forms of sanitation, and every opportunity is taken to eliminate them. The treatment units which have been installed in a number of instances are an improvement in that if properly sited and constructed, the effluent is rendered innocuous and only a minimum of maintenance is required to keep the unit in satisfactory order.

(b) Shared water closets connected to main sewer

173 houses have water closets used in common with another house. This is a reduction of 27, due to demolition of substandard properties included in the Five Year Slum Clearance Programme. A considerable number of the houses with shared water closet facilities are situated in the central section of the Borough.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

These services are carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department under the direction of the Highways Committee.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal (Combined)

Refuse Destructor

1956			Destroyed.			Tipped.		
			tons	cwts.	qrs.	tons	cwts.	qrs.
January	...	...	1,423	17	0			
February	...	...	1,406	14	0			
March	...	...	1,415	5	0			
April	...	...	1,176	3	0			
May	...	...	1,049	4	0			
June	...	...	965	13	0			
July	...	...	880	0	0			
August	...	...	870	19	0	6	11	0
September	...	...	921	10	0			
October	...	...	1,233	17	0			
November	...	...	1,296	1	0			
December	...	...	1,225	7	0			
			13,864	10	0	6	11	0

Total : 13,871 tons, 1 cwt., 0 qrs.

Cwts. collected per 1,000 population per day ... 14.5 cwts.

Street Cleaning and Gulley Cleaning

There are 125 miles of roads in the Borough. The method of street cleaning includes the use of street orderly carts and two mechanical road sweepers.

Gulley emptying is carried out by means of two Shelvoke and Drury gulley emptiers.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

There are no rivers in the Borough, but a number of streams are subjected to supervision from time to time. Plants Brook, which runs under the Parade, has caused trouble from flooding in the Avenue Road area from time to time. Works of improvement were carried out in 1956, and there has been no subsequent flooding.

SANITARY INSPECTION IN THE AREA

During the year the title of Sanitary Inspector was changed by statute to Public Health Inspector. The establishment of the Department is fixed at five Public Health Inspectors, but despite repeated advertisements it has not been found possible to have more than four Inspectors on the staff at any one time. Towards the end of the year one of the Inspectors was absent from duty for a considerable time, due to ill health, and another resigned on obtaining another appointment.

With the increase in the number of houses and population, the work continues to expand ; the total number of visits and inspections carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during the year was 10,472.

1,471 complaints were received and investigated. The classification of these complaints is set out below :

Animal keeping	...	...	...	...	...	14
Unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	94
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	212
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	173
Rodents	...	...	...	...	...	404
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	19
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	4
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	8
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	25
Defective dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	248
Insects	...	...	...	...	...	77
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	61
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	101
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	31
						1,471

A summary of the visits made by the Inspectors is given in the following tabular statement :

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' ANNUAL TABULAR STATEMENT

Visits

Public Health Acts

Houses (Primary visits)	...	...	...	...	...	372
Houses (Secondary visits)	...	...	...	...	...	1,033
Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	256
Drainage—(a) Main	...	...	...	...	...	609
(b) Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	81
(c) Privies	...	...	...	...	...	84

Water Supply—(a) Main	...	...	...	...	13
(b) Wells	...	...	...	...	7
(c) Others	...	...	...	...	—
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	361
Infectious Diseases Disinfection	...	...	...	...	47
Dirty and Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	48
Other Infested Premises	...	...	...	...	179
Animal Keeping—(a) Domestic and Poultry	...	...	...	...	42
(b) Pigsties	...	...	...	...	150
(c) Horses	...	...	...	...	7
(d) Cattle	...	...	...	...	28
Accumulations and Deposits	...	...	...	...	60
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	595
Pigbins	...	...	...	...	14
Refuse Destructor	...	...	...	...	86
Tips	...	...	...	...	34
Ponds, Pools, Watercourses	...	...	...	...	6
Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	7
Public Halls (without catering)	...	...	...	...	22
Schools	...	...	...	...	52
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	54
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	76
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	40
Sports Grounds	...	...	...	...	14
Sutton Park Insect Control	...	...	...	...	22
Noise Complaints	...	...	...	...	35
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	190

Housing Acts

Inspection of Council Houses	...	...	...	...	1,299
Housing Consolidated Regulations	...	...	...	...	9
Substandard Houses	...	...	...	...	666
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	20
Rents and Repairs Certificates	...	...	...	...	12
Housing Enquiries (other districts)	...	...	...	...	10

Prevention of Damage by Pests

Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	180
Other Pests	...	...	...	...	4

Factories Acts

Factories with Power	...	...	...	...	103
Factories without Power	...	...	...	...	5
Building Operations and Works Eng. Cons.	...	...	...	...	35
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	35

Food and Drugs Acts

Shops

Baker	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Butcher	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Chemist	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Fish (Fried)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Fish (Wet)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Greengrocer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Grocer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	367
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Sweetshop	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Wines Shop / Beer-off	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

Other Premises

Bakehouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Hotel / Restaurant / Canteen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	187
Public House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Preserved Food Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
School Meals Centre	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Public Halls (with Catering)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Food Factory / Warehouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Park Food Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Mobile Food Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Food Poisoning Investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78

Food Inspection

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	164
Other Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133

Milk and Dairies

Retailers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Milk Transport	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Sampling

Food and Drugs Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	311
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	627
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	411
Other Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Visits to Laboratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	161

Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Jamboree	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Court Proceedings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Meetings and Exhibitions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72

10,472

NOTICES under Public Health Act, 1936

	Informal	Formal						Grand Total
		Public Health Act, 1936						
		S.39	S.45	S.47	S.75	S.93	S.138	
Outstanding 31/12/1955 ...	30	3	1	6	12	17	—	69
Served during 1956	157	5	—	—	57	17	—	236
	187	8	1	6	69	34	—	305
Outstanding 31/12/1956 ...	11	2	—	—	1	1	—	15
Complied with during 1956 ...	176	6	1	6	68	33	—	290

WORK REQUIRED BY NOTICES

Drainage

Drains unchoked or repaired ...	...	...	...	29
W.C.'s repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	21

Water Supply

Service pipes repaired or renewed	9
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Roofs

Repaired ...	...	...	...	54
Rainwater conduits repaired ...	...	...	...	50
Walls—external, repaired ...	...	...	...	19
Chimneys —repaired ...	...	...	...	13
Doors —repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	10
Windows —repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	46
Ceiling and Internal Walls —repaired ...	...	...	...	59
Floors —repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	9
Staircases —repaired ...	...	...	...	3
Sinks —repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	4
Firegrates —repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	7
Dustbins —provided (owner-occupied houses) ...	...	...	...	30
Paving —repairs ...	...	...	...	2

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Inspection of shops continues to be very largely carried out in conjunction with routine inspections under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

A gradual improvement in the conditions has been effected throughout the years, but there are still a number of premises which fail to attain a satisfactory standard. This is particularly true of the sanitary accommodation of some offices.

The legislation governing these premises is comparatively weak, but despite promises by successive governments, improved legislation has not yet been enacted.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING SITES

The Public Health control of camping sites falls into two categories :

- (a) Camping sites for a group of movable dwellings.
- (b) Licences granted to individual owners of movable dwellings.

There is one private site situated on the Birmingham Road, which holds a maximum of six caravans. In addition 39 licences for indivisible movable dwellings were issued during the year ending 31st December 1956. These are renewable annually on the 1st January.

There continues to be an increasing tendency for families to live in movable dwellings, and the number of individual licences issued in 1956 represents a 50% increase on the previous year, but a substantial part of this number is accounted for by the occupation of caravans on temporary sites during building and constructional operations of a major character.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Of recent years it is becoming more generally recognised that approximately half of the atmospheric pollution arising in industrial and residential areas comes from domestic chimneys. Up to the present time the law has taken very little account of this fact, for although Local Authorities have for many years had limited powers

to effect reduction in smoke from factory chimneys, no such similar authority existed for houses. With the passing of the Clean Air Act during 1956 this has been remedied in so far as it is now possible for Local Authorities to declare certain parts of their district smoke controlled areas.

The time will undoubtedly arrive when the public will expect clean air as a right in much the same way as we now expect a clean and pure water supply.

The problem of industrial atmospheric pollution in the Minworth area mentioned in previous reports remains, despite continuous efforts to secure a satisfactory solution.

Another problem mentioned in the 1955 report was smoke emission from the chimney in the hospital in Rectory Road and this has again given rise to further complaint from time to time. The real trouble here would seem to be that the installation is of too great a capacity for the limited use at present being made of the hospital.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

Since the installation of a breakpoint chlorination plant the water at Keepers baths has been satisfactory.

Undoubtedly the reduction in the number of bathers permitted at one time, and the resting of the pool to enable the plant to deal with the water efficiently has effected a considerable improvement in the bacterial condition of the water.

The baths attendant checks from time to time the residual chlorine of the water, and periodic checks and samples are taken by this Department. A copy of one of the bacteriological and chemical analyses made by the Public Analyst is given below :

Bacteriological

Number of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in two days at 37°C. per c.c.	0
Number of colonies capable of growth on Reibel-agar in two days at 37°C. per c.c.	0
Number of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in four days at 20°C. per c.c.	780
Presumptive B. Coli in 100 c.c.	Absent

Chemical

Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.068
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.352
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	139.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	...	...	...	...	3.0
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in 4 hrs.	...	...	...	...	1.1
Total solids dried at 100°C.	...	...	...	...	480
Nitrite	...	...	...	...	Absent
pH	...	...	...	...	7.58
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	0.06
Appearance	...	...	...	Bright, few small particles	
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	200

The above and the enclosed bacteriological results show that, although the water is to some extent a polluted one, it can, in its present condition, be considered safe for use as a public swimming pool.

DISINFESTATION

During 1956, 48 visits were made to dirty and verminous premises, and disinfestation carried out by the Department where necessary.

The methods used from time to time vary according to the premises and the type of infestation.

PARK INSECT CONTROL

For the second successive year the Swingfog apparatus for the control of pests was used on a fairly wide scale. As previously, particular attention was given to the Wyndley, Blackroot, Bracebridge and Longmoor areas as the swampy nature of the ground around certain parts of these pools is the most likely extensive breeding ground of mosquitoes and midges.

It was again pleasing to hear favourable comment on the reduction in the number of biting insects which bite and annoy residents and park visitors alike.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council provides a comprehensive service for the destruction of rats and mice. A flat rate charge is made for treatment at infested domestic premises, while a charge on time and materials basis is made for all business premises.

Two full-time Rodent Operators are employed, and made a total of 7,027 visits and inspections. In addition, as is shown elsewhere, the Public Health Inspectors made 184 visits and inspections for this purpose.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agri- cultural
	(1) <i>Local Authority</i>	(2) <i>Dwelling Houses (includ'g Council Houses)</i>	(3) <i>All other (includ'g Business Premises)</i>	(4) <i>Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3)</i>	
I. Number of Properties in Local Authority's District ...	19	17,743	1,782	19,544	112
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification ...	—	305	38	343	4
(b) Survey under the Act...	1	3,101	117	3,219	7
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	—	—	—	—	—
III. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections (to be completed only if figures are readily available) ...	7	6,014	839	6,860	167
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Section II) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats —Major ...	—	—	3	3	1
Minor ...	—	64	15	79	1
(b) Mice —Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	—	5	6	11	—
V. Number of infested properties (in Section IV) treated by L.A. (Figures should not exceed those given at Section IV) ...	—	69	24	93	2
VI. Total treatments carried out, including re-treatments (to be completed only if figures are readily available) ...	—	151	34	185	2
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :					
(a) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., proofing) ...	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal proceedings (see under)	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ...	—	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES

The number of factories registered under the Factories Acts, 1937-1952 is 174.

The general standard of hygiene maintained at factory premises is satisfactory, only minor infringements having been noted.

Factories are inspected as a matter of routine by the Public Health Inspectors, and in addition, infringements are brought to the notice of the Department by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

The number of notices served during the year was six, but it must be borne in mind that attention is often drawn verbally by the inspectors at the time of visit, where minor infringements are found.

Particulars of inspections are set out in the following Table :—

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	111	103	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	49	35	3	—
Total ...	174	143	6	—

2. Cases in which **Defects** were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	6	6	—	4	—

OUTWORKERS

18 persons were registered with the Local Authority as performing work of a registrable nature in their own homes.

The premises at which work is carried out are visited periodically and no contraventions of the Acts were noted during the year. 35 visits were made during the year.

SCHOOLS

During 1956 visits of inspection were made by Public Health Inspectors to the schools, and the school meals kitchens kept under observation.

Sanitary accommodation at schools was also regularly inspected and defects and lack of cleanliness attended to.

All schools within the Borough are provided with main water supplies and washing facilities, and are connected to the main drainage and these facilities are, on the whole, reasonably satisfactory.

At some schools the number of sanitary conveniences provided is inadequate for the number of school children now attending. These larger numbers are accounted for by the increased number of houses being built in the Borough and also the increase in the birth rate in the immediate post-war years.

SECTION 47, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

During 1956 no applications under S.47 were required. It has always been found possible to obtain the admission of any persons who might fall into the category of being in need of care and attention by other means, and there has been no difficulty in getting urgent cases admitted to suitable hospitals or other accommodation.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Housing Conditions

During 1956 the housing situation eased a little owing to the progress made by the Council in its building programme, 164 more houses were erected in 1956 compared with 1955, the bulk of the increase being private enterprise housing.

Dwellings handed over to the Corporation during 1956	121
Houses and flats erected by private enterprise during 1956	905
Total houses erected in 1956	<u>1,026</u>

Corporation Housing as at 31/12/56

Temporary houses completed	100
Permanent dwellings completed 1945-56	2,070
Permanent dwellings erected prior to 1945	<u>609</u>
Total houses erected by Council to 31/12/56	<u>2,779</u>
Permanent dwellings under construction at 31/12/56, 136	

Private Enterprise Housing as at 31/12/56

Number of houses and flats completed since 1/8/45 ...	3,073
Number of houses under construction	350
Total number of inhabited houses at 31/12/56	17,802

Year	Inhabited Houses Mid-year	Population Mid-year	Persons per Occupied House
1947	13,618	45,280	3.325
1948	13,887	46,190	3.326
1949	14,155	46,580	3.291
1950	14,391	47,440	3.296
1951	14,871	47,790	3.214
1952	15,016	48,180	3.209
1953	15,446	48,670	3.151
1954	16,008	49,780	3.109
1955	16,801	50,630	3.014
1956	17,497	52,510	3.001

Housing Inspection

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	1,398
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	5,054
2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) where inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	9
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	9
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	28
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	290
5.	Remedy of defects during the year, without service of formal notices— Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence	176
6.	Action under Statutory powers during the year :	
	(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices served requiring repairs ...	None
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	None
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...	None
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
	(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices served requiring defects to be remedied	182
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
	(a) By owners	87
	(b) By Local Authority in default	27
7.	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(i) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	24
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ...	8

8. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
 - (i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit None
9. Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
 - (i) Number of houses included in Clearance Areas 13
 - (ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of Clearance Area procedure 8

SUB-STANDARD HOUSES

In addition to the 28 houses formally represented as unfit for human habitation, voluntary agreement was reached for the demolition of six privately-owned houses and four Corporation-owned houses. In each case the Council has rehoused or undertaken to rehouse the occupants.

In practice it is found that voluntary agreement works satisfactorily.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The quality of food is adversely affected by chemical and bacteriological contamination. Excess preservatives, harmful chemical substances, dilution or other adulteration of the food is supervised by routine samples submitted to the Borough Analyst.

Bacteriological contamination occurs in a variety of ways, particularly by means of mishandling or unsuitable storage. Food originally clean or pure is rendered harmful by unhygienic practices.

Food hygiene instruction and advice is given during routine visits to food premises and also by lectures and demonstrations given to a variety of organisations within the Borough.

In recent years increasing attention has been paid to the inspection and supervision of food premises. The Food Hygiene Regulations which came into force during the year have proved helpful. To effectively enforce the Regulations involves the giving of more time for each visit to food premises.

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955/1956

Improvement of Food Premises

Much importance is placed on the periodic routine inspection of food premises, and by this means considerable improvement has been made through the post-war years in the hygienic standard of structures, fittings and equipment.

The introduction of the Regulations led to a considerably increased number of improvements being effected. In 1955 there were 91, whereas in the year under review the total rose to 387 as listed below :

<i>Article of Regulations</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory condition remedied</i>	
5	Insanitary construction of premises	4
6	Cleansing of equipment required	13
	Improvement of equipment required	8
8	Open food unprotected	15
	Clothing stored in food room	6
	Food stored in staff room	1
	Beer overspill storage	1
9	Smoking whilst handling open food	4
14	Sanitary accommodation defective	11
	Hand washing notices not fixed	23
15	Substandard water supply	1
16	Wash hand basins not provided	71
	Hot water supply not provided	35
	Towels not available	15
	Soap not available	14
	Nail brushes not available	5
17	First Aid materials not provided	18
18	Clothing accommodation not provided	11
19	Sinks not provided	15
23	Decoration of walls and ceilings required	35
	Cleansing of walls, ceilings, floors, doors, windows, etc.	19
	Cleansing of food stores required	9
	Walls and ceilings defective	10
	Floors defective	7
	Floor covering defective	2
	Cleansing of yards required	7
	Prevention of infestation recommended	2
24	Refuse removal required	4
	Refuse storage improvement needed	4
25	Temperature control of food by refrigeration, etc.	10
26	Mobile food vehicles defective	6
30	Protective overalls not provided	1
		387

Classification of Food Premises

The number of food premises in the Borough by type of business is as follows :—

Bakers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	17
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	40
Chemists' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	22
Fish—Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fish—Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	8
Greengrocers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	45
Grocers' and General Shops	...	...	...	...	...	112
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sweetshops	...	...	...	...	...	39
Wineshop/Beer Off	...	...	...	...	...	14
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	8
Hotel/Restaurant/Canteen	...	...	...	...	...	51
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	33
Preserved Food Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	3
School Meals Centres	...	...	...	...	...	9
Public Halls	...	...	...	...	...	23
Food Factories/Warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	7
Dairies and Milk Depots	...	...	...	...	...	5
Park Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	7
						451

The classification is made on the principal trade of the premises.

Ice Cream

(a) Registered Premises.

There are 169 premises in the Borough registered for the manufacture or sale of ice cream, in accordance with Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. These are :

- 1 registered for manufacture only.
- 16 registered for manufacture and sale.
- 152 registered for sale only.

In addition, 11 exempted premises such as hotels, clubs, etc. are known to sell the product and several mobile vehicles frequent the Borough.

Of those registered for manufacture or manufacture and sale, only one is at present doing so, the article produced being heat treated.

A high proportion of the premises registered for sale handle only a pre-packed article, and supplies in the main come from 11 manufacturers. There is preference for pre-packed ice cream on the grounds of ease of handling. This greatly assists the hygienic control of the commodity.

All registered premises are inspected as a routine and for record purposes such inspections are listed under the principal trade of the premises concerned.

(b) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1947/1952

171 samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination, and the results are shown in the following table :

Type	Number Taken	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Not Tested
From Manufacturers : Hot Mix ...	15	8	5	1	1	—
From Retailers	156	135	16	2	2	1
Total ...	171	143	21	3	3	1

The total of unsatisfactory samples is low, but nevertheless shows the necessity for constant vigilance. One sample was not tested on account of the abnormally high atmospheric temperature at the time of submission to the laboratory. One sample of server rinsing water was also submitted and reported as containing no B. Coli Type 1.

For the purpose of testing, the methylene blue reduction test recommended by the Laboratory Service is used. Grades one and two are normally considered satisfactory, grade three doubtful and grade four unsatisfactory.

Preserved Food

52 premises in the Borough are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved foods intended for sale.

The primary business of the premises registered is as follows :

Butcher	26
Cooked meat shop	5
Bakehouse	7
Grocer	5
Fried fish shop	5
Premises not in use at present ...	4

All food premises are subject to regular routine inspection and premises registered under Section 16(b) are inspected for the purpose of the Section at the time of such routine visits. Details of visits to these premises can be found in the Public Health Inspector's Annual Tabular Statement of visits.

Milk Supply

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The number of Milk Distributors registered in the Borough at 31st December, 1956, is as follows :

Resident in the Borough :

Distributors both producing and retailing	...	4
Distributors retailing only	... ..	5
Shopkeepers selling bottled milk only	... ..	26

Resident outside the Borough :

Distributors both producing and retailing	...	5
Distributors retailing only	... ..	10

The number of registered premises in use in the Borough is as under :

Bottled milk depots	... ..	3
Dairies	... ..	4

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954

The following licences were granted :

Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk—

Dealers' Licences :

(a) Pasteurised	... ..	30
(b) Sterilised	... ..	43

Supplementary Licences :

(a) Pasteurised	... ..	14
(b) Sterilised	... ..	13

Raw Milk—

Dealers' Licences—T.T.	... ..	17
Supplementary Licences—T.T.	... ..	12

129

Control and Distribution of Milk

Since the 1st October 1949, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has exercised control over the production of milk and the Local Authority has been responsible only for the supervision of treatment and distribution of milk.

This latter supervision is exercised by the inspection of premises, and frequent sampling of milk in the process of distribution to the customer.

During the year, inspections of premises were made, and 308 samples of milk were taken of which 233 were taken for bacteriological examination and 76 for biological test (one being a phosphatase failure).

Details of sampling and results are shown in the table on the following page.

Grade of Milk	Number of Samples	Results of Tests											
		Phosphatase			Methylene Blue			Turbidity		T.B.			
		Passed	Failed	Not Tested	Passed	Failed	Not Tested	Passed	Failed	Number of Samples	Neg.	Pos.	Inconclusive
Pasteurised ...	202	200	1	1	185	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised	11	10	1	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. Raw ...	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	31	—	—	—
Sterilised ...	16	—	—	—	16	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—
Ungraded ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	41	1	3*
Total ...	233	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	76	72	1	3

*Guinea pig died from intercurrent infection.

Heat Treatment

As from the 1st November, 1952, the Borough became part of a specified area, and it is now obligatory for all milks sold to be of special designation standard, i.e. pasteurised, sterilised, or tuberculin tested.

INSPECTION OF FOOD

The inspection of food is divided between (a) the inspection of retail shops and wholesale warehouses and (b) the inspection of meat in slaughterhouses.

There is in operation a voluntary scheme of surrender, under which certificates are given by the inspector and the unsound food removed for destruction by incineration at the Corporation refuse destructor.

(a) Food found unfit at retail shops and warehouses

	lbs.	Number of Tins
Raw meat	112	
Bacon	112	
Poultry	99	
Sausage and meat products ...	142	
Fish	105	
Fats	4	
Cheese	77	
Fruit	1,221	
Flour and Cereals	26	
Jams and preserves	38	
Sweets, etc.	109	
Other foods	7	
Tinned foods	3,497	3,408
	<hr/> 5,549	<hr/> 3,408

Total : 2 tons, 9 cwts., 2 qtrs., 5 lbs.

(b) Inspection at Slaughterhouses

The decontrol of home killed meat came into effect in July 1954. The Council approved the issue of four slaughterhouse licences, but only one has been in regular use during the year.

All animals slaughtered were inspected, the total being :
32 Calves.
133 Pigs.
568 Sheep and Lambs.

Conditions rendering meat unfit for human consumption were found as follows :

Pigs	6 heads ...	...	T.B.	...	...	...	48 lbs.
	3 mesenteries ...	...	T.B.	...	...	...	4½ lbs.
	2 lungs ...	...	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2 lbs.
	1 liver ...	...	Pleurisy	...	...	...	4 lbs.
	1 lung ...	...	Parasitic condition	...	...	...	1 lb.
	6 kidneys	...	Nephritis, fever and cysts	...	...	...	1½ lbs.
	Meat ...	...	T.B.	...	...	...	3 lbs.

Sheep and Lambs

17 livers	...	Parasitic condition	...	25 lbs.
1 head	...	Parasitic condition	...	3 lbs.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART During year ending 31st December, 1956

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	—	—	32	568	133	—
Number inspected ...	—	—	32	568	133	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i> Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	17	7	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	—	—	—	3.0	6.0	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i> Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	10	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	7.5	—
<i>Cysticerosis :</i> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Food Poisoning

Seven cases of food poisoning were reported during the year. One in the first quarter, five in a group in the second quarter and one in the third quarter. The five cases were due to *Salmonella Stanleyville*, one case was due to *Staphylococci* infection and the remaining case was due to unknown cause. It would appear that in the five cases due to *Salmonella Stanleyville* infection was contracted in France.

Bacteriological and Chemical Examination of Food

Bacteriological

The Public Health Laboratory Service has proved extremely valuable in connection with the examination of milks, ice cream, water and food submitted for suspected food poisoning organisms.

In all, 808 samples and specimens were submitted during the year for bacteriological and microscopical examination as detailed below :

Milk : Bacteriological	...	...	233
Biological	...	...	75
Ice Cream	...	...	171
Water : Drinking	...	...	98
Swimming Bath	...	...	2
Faeces	...	...	228
Crab and Lobster Paste	...	...	1
			<hr/>
			808

Chemical

Analyses of samples of food and drugs taken under the Food and Drugs Act, are carried out by the Public Analysts for the Borough, Messrs. Bostock Hill and Rigby, who carry out chemical examination of food, water, drugs, etc., as required by the Department.

Mr. F. G. D. Chalmers, of Messrs. Bostock Hill and Rigby comments on the year's work as follows :—

“The table showing the range of food and drugs submitted for analysis reveals that a very wide range has been covered and that, with very few exceptions, the standard of quality of foodstuffs sold in the Borough is uniformly high.

“The number of unsatisfactory samples this year shows a gratifying drop, being only about 2% as compared with a figure 7.4% for 1955.

“The single sample of milk which was reported against appeared to have been a case of accidental admixture with a small quantity of water, as an official sample taken subsequently proved to be genuine and of good quality.

“Approaches to the vendors of the other three doubtful samples resulted in the desired amendments being readily achieved.”

197 samples of food and drugs were taken under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 by the Inspectors, and forwarded to the Public Analyst for report. The following tables give details of samples taken and the results of the analyses with details of samples found to be unsatisfactory.

Samples of					Formal	Informal	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
FOOD									
Arrowroot	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Butter	...	...	...	...	—	5	5	5	—
Cereals	...	...	...	...	—	3	3	3	—
Cheese	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Cherries, Glace	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Coconut	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Coffee	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—
Cream	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Curd	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Curry	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Fats and Oil, Cooking	...	...	...	...	—	5	5	5	—
Flavourings and Essences	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—
Flour	...	...	...	...	—	9	9	9	—
Fruit, Dried	...	...	...	...	—	6	6	6	—
Fruit, Tinned	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Gelatine	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Gin	...	...	...	...	2	—	2	2	—
Honey	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	—	12	12	12	—
Jams and Preserves	...	...	...	...	—	5	5	5	—
Jelly	...	...	...	...	—	3	3	3	—
Lemon Juice	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Margarine	...	...	...	...	—	4	4	4	—
Marzipan	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Milk	...	...	...	...	45	4	49	48	1
Mixtures, Baking	...	...	...	...	—	4	4	4	—
Paste, Fish, etc.	...	...	...	...	—	5	5	5	—
Paste, Meat	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Peel	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—
Pepper	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—
Pickled Foods	...	...	...	...	—	3	3	3	—
Plum Pudding	...	...	...	...	—	3	3	3	—
Rum	...	...	...	...	10	—	10	10	—
Sauces	...	...	...	...	—	3	3	3	—
Sausage	...	...	...	...	—	10	10	9	1
Soft Drinks, Cordials, Wines	...	...	...	...	—	7	7	7	—
Sugar and Sweetener	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	1	1
Stuffing	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Sweets and Toffee	...	...	...	...	—	4	4	4	—
Tea	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	—	6	6	6	—
Whisky	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	1	—
Totals c/f					58	126	184	181	3

<i>Samples of</i>				<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
DRUGS								
<i>Totals b/f</i>				58	126	184	181	3
Aniseed Fruit	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Foods, various	...	...	...	—	3	3	3	—
Mixtures, various	...	...	...	—	7	7	6	1
Tablets, various	...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—
				58	139	197	193	4

SAMPLES TAKEN UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS AND REPORTED UPON AS UNSATISFACTORY

<i>No.</i>	<i>Nature of Sample</i>	<i>Formal or Informal</i>	<i>Nature of Deficiency</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
15 97	Pork Sausage ... Pasteurised Milk ...	I. F.	Preservative not declared ... Contained 4% added water	Vendor warned. Vendor cautioned. Further sample satisfactory.
126 121	Cough Linctus ... Liquid Sweetener ...	I. I.	Unsatisfactory label ... Unsatisfactory label ...	Label amended. Commodity withdrawn from sale.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Deaths

During the year there were no deaths from Diphtheria, Typhoid, Paratyphoid Fever and Dysentery.

Diphtheria

Once again there have been no cases of Diphtheria in the Borough during the year.

I have to report an increase in the number of children immunised this year. During 1956, 774 children completed primary courses of immunisation, 749 in the age group 0-4 years and 25 in the age group 5-14 years, and every effort is being made by health education means and personal contact by visiting staff to encourage mothers to have their children immunised

both against diphtheria and whooping cough. I think the fact that there has been no case of diphtheria in this town for many years makes it difficult for parents to appreciate the importance of having their children immunised.

At the end of 1956, 71% of the child population 0-14 years had been immunised.

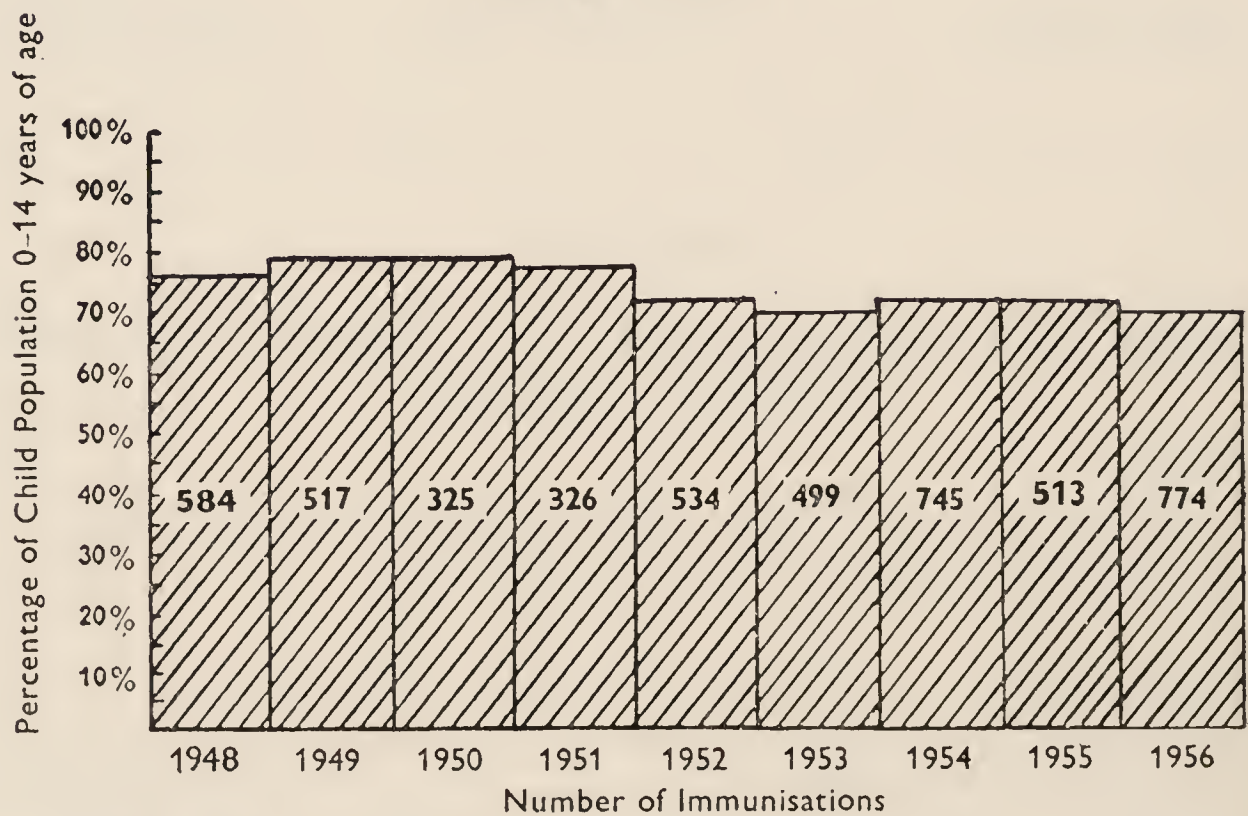
Although the number of children immunised against Diphtheria has increased from 513 to 774 and this is reasonably satisfactory, I still think that it is essential that all mothers should have their children immunised—71% immunised is far too low a figure to be comfortable.

The estimate of child population 0-14 years of age on which the above percentage is calculated, is now no longer supplied by the Registrar-General and therefore the percentage has been calculated on a local estimate.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Complete Courses of Inoculation for the Past Nine Years

GRAPH No. 2



Scarlet Fever

The number of cases notified during the year showed a decrease on 1955—a total of 52 cases being registered. This disease is still of a mild type and the admission of cases to hospital has not been encouraged.

Whooping Cough

During this year 159 cases of whooping cough were notified, an increase of 67 cases as compared with 1955, and no death occurred. 747 children were immunised during the year as against 358 in 1955, more than 100% increase.

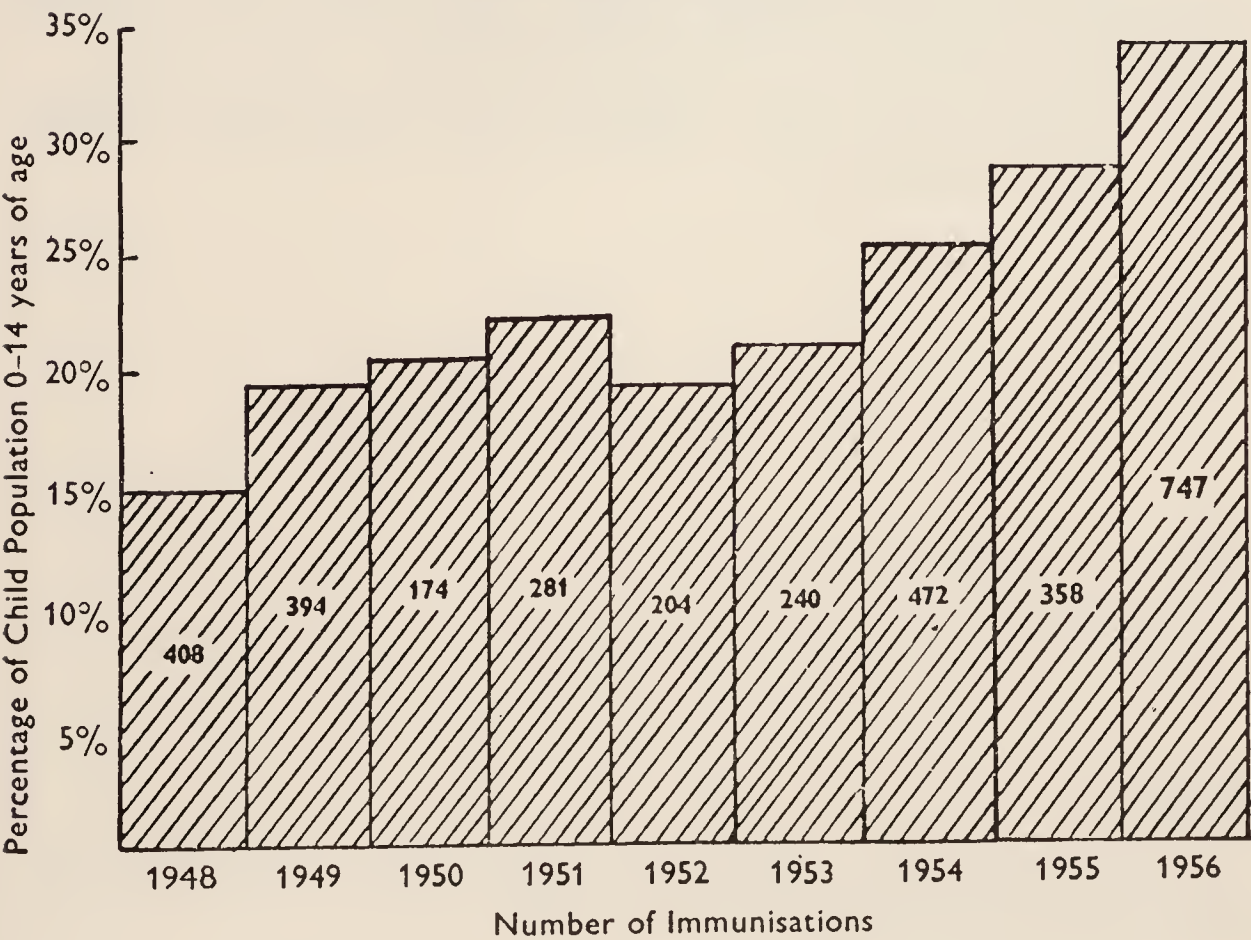
Since commencing whooping cough immunisation in 1942, I am pleased to report that 34% of the child population 0-14 years of age have been immunised.

Although 159 cases of whooping cough were notified, there is no doubt that there must be a large number of cases which escape attention.

Whooping cough is a disease which does a tremendous amount of damage and this fact is not fully appreciated by all parents. It is just as essential that children should be immunised against Whooping cough as against such diseases as Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis.

Whooping Cough Immunisation
Number and Percentage of Cases Inoculated
for the Past Nine Years

GRAPH No. 3



Malaria

One case of Malaria (Benign Tertiary) was reported in a regular army officer who had just returned from Malaya. The patient made a speedy recovery.

Pneumonia

There was a decrease in the cases of pneumonia notified during the year, there being 17 as compared with 25 in 1955, and 7 deaths occurred and were all in the age group 65 years and over.

Poliomyelitis

During 1956 4 cases were notified, 2 paralytic and 2 non-paralytic.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

In February 1956 the Poliomyelitis Vaccination Scheme was started and parents were asked to register their children for vaccination.

The number of children eligible in Sutton Coldfield according to age group was approximately 6,500. About 50% of those offered vaccination accepted it, in fact 3,400 acceptances were received.

During the year vaccine sufficient to vaccinate 350 children completely, was received.

Dysentery

25 cases of dysentery were notified during the year.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid

There were no cases during the year.

Measles

Only 22 cases were notified during the year. There were no deaths from this disease.

Tuberculosis

This year there has been a slight drop in the number of notifications in Tuberculosis, in spite of the fact that the population has increased considerably. The number of new cases of respiratory Tuberculosis notified this year was 26, as against 28 in 1955, and four cases of non-respiratory were notified, the same as 1955, making a total of 30 cases as against 32 for last year.

During the year two deaths occurred from Respiratory Tuberculosis and two from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis as compared with five and two respectively for 1955.

In 1948 there were 143 on the register and at the end of 1956 there were 281 cases on the Tuberculosis register, 246 being Pulmonary and 35 Non-pulmonary.

The increase in the number of Tuberculosis cases during these years on the Tuberculosis Register is to a large extent due to the growth of the town.

Every endeavour is made to obtain suitable housing accommodation for Tuberculosis patients and the Corporation is sympathetic in this direction. The Occupational Therapy Scheme has been extended again.

The number of B.C.G. vaccinations has increased, 82 children receiving B.C.G. vaccination in 1956. Most of these vaccinations were done in Birmingham, the children although resident in Sutton Coldfield being school leavers attending schools in the city.

It is hoped to commence B.C.G. vaccination for school leavers in Sutton Coldfield in due course.

Tuberculosis

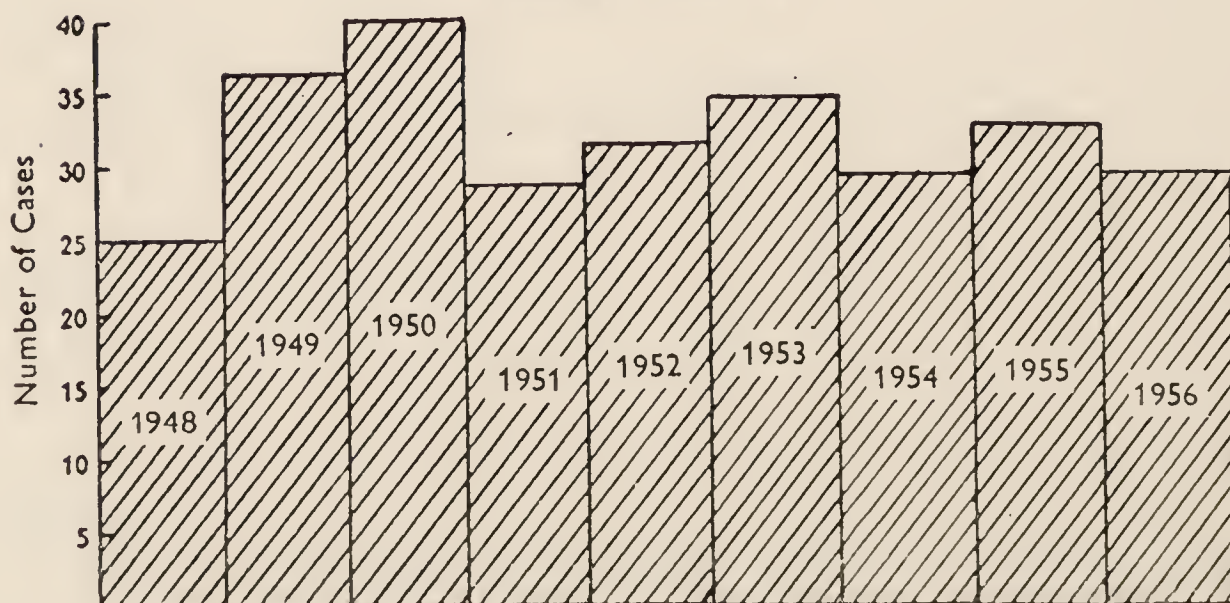
New Cases and Mortality during 1956

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—15 ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ...	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ...	2	4	1	1	—	—	—	—
35—45 ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ...	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 ...	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	1
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	12	14	2	2	2	—	1	1

Tuberculosis

Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary New Cases for the Past Nine Years

GRAPH No. 4



SMALLPOX VACCINATION

The vaccination of children under one year during 1956 was 72% of the live births during the twelve months ended June 1956.

During the year 637 children under one year were vaccinated.

Smallpox

It is generally accepted that unless 75% of all infants are vaccinated then protection against Smallpox is inadequate, it therefore behoves all parents to see that their children are protected against Smallpox.

It is always interesting to note that when there is a scare of Smallpox in the district, people rush frantically to their general practitioner or to the Public Health Department demanding immediate vaccination.

Quarterly Notifications of Infectious Diseases

Disease	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Totals
Scarlet Fever	29	10	3	10	52
Whooping Cough	11	47	82	19	159
Poliomyelitis, Paralytic	1	—	—	1	2
„ Non-Paralytic	—	1	1	—	2
Measles	2	7	8	5	22
Pneumonia	11	2	3	1	17
Dysentery	10	8	3	4	25
Acute Encephalitis, Infective	—	—	—	1	1
Malaria	—	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas	1	1	6	2	10
Food Poisoning	1	5	1	—	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	1	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	2	—	—	2
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	8	6	9	26
„ Non-Respiratory	1	1	1	—	3
„ Meninges and C.N.S.	—	—	—	1	1
Totals ...	70	93	115	54	332

Notifiable Diseases

Analysis of Deaths

Diseases	CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR													DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR												
	All Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	All Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...	52	—	—	3	6	4	33	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	159	12	16	15	22	14	70	3	—	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis, Paralytic ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Non-Paralytic ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	22	2	3	2	2	3	8	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	17	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	5	8	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Dysentery ...	25	2	2	5	—	2	3	—	1	5	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis, Infective ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	7	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	26	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	13	2	4	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
" Non-Respiratory ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
" Meninges and C.N.S. ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	332	19	21	25	31	25	123	8	3	36	15	16	10	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7